

MINUTES
City Council Meeting
Monday, July 16, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mayor Holder welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotional & Pledge of Allegiance: Councilmember Kicklighter offered the opening prayer and Mayor Holder led City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Mayor Holder presided. **Council Members:** Don Bethune, Bruce Campbell, Rosetta Cody, Scott George, Bessie Kicklighter and Judy Shuman

Staff Present: Ron Feldner, Deputy City Manager; Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council; James P. Gerard, City Attorney; Pam Franklin, HR Director; Ben Brengman, IT Director; Cory Salley, Finance Director; Scott Allison, PED Director; Charles Draeger, Water Operations Director; Jimmy Crosby, Fire Chief; David Lyons, Chief of Police and Bennie Gooze, Public Works Director; and David Lyons, Chief of Police. **Absent:** Brian Johnson, City Manager & Cliff Ducey, Parks & Recreation Director

Mayor Holder said City Council held a Pre-Agenda Session prior to tonight's meeting. He said no decisions were made during the Pre-Agenda Session.

Board & Committee Reports:

Mayor Holder said Ms. Jean Motes, Chairperson of the Beautification Committee is not here tonight to present the Committee's report.

PED Director presented the BOA/Planning Commission Minutes dated 7/10/12.

Informal Public Comment:

Mayor opened the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Mr. Dan Massey candidate for Clerk of Superior Court of Chatham County addressed City Council regarding his qualifications for the office and asked City Council for their support in the upcoming election.

Mr. Lenard Hodges, 3801 Old Louisville Road asked everyone to vote for TSPLOST and asked City Council to look into commercial drivers using cell phone.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the informal public comment portion of the meeting.

Formal Public Comment: Mayor Holder

Mr. Trip Tollison, Vice President of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce addressed City Council on TSPLOST and asked City Council to support the TSPLOST Referendum in the upcoming election.

Councilmember Kicklighter asked Mr. Tollison where the Highway 21 overpass was on the TSPLOST project list.

Mr. Tollison said he would have to get back to Ms. Kicklighter on exact timeframe of the project. He said that larger projects are scheduled out five to seven years from the date of the collection.

Deputy City Manager said the timeline is correct. He said projects for resurfacing streets will begin approximately in one year.

Councilmember Kicklighter said I am not asking about street resurfacing. She said I am asking about the overpass project.

Mr. Tollison said I do not have the list of projects in front of me. He said that you can go to Connect Georgia.com for a complete list of the projects.

Councilmember Bethune said I had thought about going up on the price of gas twenty-five cents, but after looking at it the 1% sales tax is better. He said some people have had some positive and negative things to say about TSPLOST. He said Eric Johnson wrote a clear and understandable letter to the editor in yesterday's newspaper on TSPLOST. He said if you didn't read the letter, please go back and read it, because it will help you to understand TSPLOST a lot better.

Public Hearings:

American Disability Act Transition Plan Presentation by PED Director: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the City's proposed ADA Transition Plan.

PED Director presented the City's proposed ADA Transition Plan. He said the City will implement facility plans as funding comes available. He said a draft of the ADA Transition Plan will be posted on the City's website under the Planning & Zoning Department. He said the public has 30 days to comment on the plan and then it will go before City Council for adoption.

Mayor Holder asked if there were any questions or comments.

There being no further questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on the ADA Transition Plan.

Capital Improvement Element Plan Presentation by PED Director: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on the City's Capital Improvement Element Plan Update.

PED Director presented the City's Capital Improvement Element Plan Update. He said the Capital Improvement Element Plan is part of the City's Comprehensive Plan related to impact fees. He said currently the City does not charge impact fees, but we do have any impact fee ordinance. He said since we have an impact fee ordinance our Capital Improvement Element Plan has to be updated annually.

PC1218, Intown Suites Annexation Property Rezoning: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by the City of Garden City to rezone property owned by Intown Suites Savannah, LLC located at 5450 Augusta Road (1-0818-01-008) from a Chatham County I-H zoning district to a Garden City I-1 zoning district.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone to speak for or against.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on PC1218.

PC1219, Rosengart and Waffod, LLC (Sonic) Annexation Property Rezoning: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by the City of Garden City to rezone property owned by Rosengart and Waffod, LLC at 5440 Augusta Road (1-0818-01-010) from a Chatham County I-H zoning district to a Garden City C-2 zoning district.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on PC1219.

PC1220, Hilliard Realty Associates No. 2 Annexation Property Rezoning: Mayor Holder opened the public hearing to receive public comment on a request by the City of Garden City to rezone property owned by Hilliard Realty Associates No. 2 (1-0818-01-022) from a Chatham County I-H zoning district to a Garden City I-2 zoning district except for that portion of the subject properties lying along and within one hundred (100') feet of the eastern right-of-way of Highway 21 which shall be zoned C-2.

Mayor Holder asked if there was anyone who wished to speak for or against.

There being no questions or comments, Mayor Holder closed the public hearing on PC1220.

City Council Minutes Approval:

Upon motion by Councilmember Cody, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve the minutes dated 7/2/12

Staff Reports:

Director of Finance presented the Finance Department's Monthly Status Report.

Councilmember Kicklighter said we forgave the General Fund \$3 million from the SPLOST Fund.

Finance Director said that we did do a permanent transfer at the end of FY2011 that cleared up the due to/due from that had accumulated from previous years.

Councilmember Kicklighter asked if we will have to do that again.

Finance Director said we will have to book it that way again this year, because of the loan payment comes in February so General Fund has to pay the loan payment and then be reimbursed at the end of year from the SPLOST proceeds that we receive throughout the year.

Director of Water Operations presented the Water Operations Department's Monthly Status Report.

Mayor Pro-tem George asked if we are on track with our CIP projects.

Deputy City Manager said only two CIP Projects were identified in fiscal year 2012. He said they are Byck & Bisbee Water Line Extensions.

Fire Chief presented the Fire Department's Monthly Status Report.

Chief of Police presented the Police Department's Monthly Status Report. Councilmember Kicklighter said she gave the Deputy City Manager a letter she received regarding traffic on Old Louisville. Road.

Chief Lyons said that the Deputy City Manager passed the letter along to me to look into.

Councilmember Bethune said I noticed Patrol Officers riding in the neighborhoods.

Chief Lyons said they are patrolling their beat. He said we have three zones in the City and they patrol the housing areas as much as possible.

Councilmember Bethune asked Chief Lyons to speak on the cameras at City Hall.

Councilmember Kicklighter said I asked about the cameras and I received my answer from the IT Director.

Councilmember Bethune said Councilmember Kicklighter inquired why there are cameras and I would like the Chief to talk about the cameras.

Chief Lyons said I was involved with the security plan for City Hall. He said the cameras are there to protect the City from liability. He said the security plan was created to protect the tax payer's money.

Councilmember Kicklighter said I never questioned the Chief. She said I wanted to know the number of cameras we have at City Hall and the IT Director had already provided the answer to my question.

Deputy City Manager brief City Council on the status of several construction projects - Export Blvd & Commerce Blvd road rehab, Smith Avenue storm pipe/culvert replacement and the bidding of Byck & Bisbee water improvement.

Councilmember Bethune said workshops are open to the public. He said a lot of our discussion on items takes place in our workshops. He said the public is welcome to come and observe what is going on.

Deputy City Manager said the City Council Workshops are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday's of the month.

Items for Consideration:

PC1214, Centerpoint Major Subdivision Request: Mayor Holder said we have for consideration a request by Centerpoint Properties, LLC for a major subdivision of their property located on Dean Forest Road (I-0989-02-007).

Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, City Council voted unanimously to approve Centerpoint Properties major subdivision request.

Resolution, Master Developer Agreement: Mayor Holder read a resolution to extend the Master Developer's Feasibility Period by sixty (60) days so that the current Master Development Agreement can be amended and restated.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Cody, City Council voted unanimously to adopt the resolution to extend the Master Developer's Feasibility period by sixty days.

Resolution, Homestead Tax Exemption: Mayor Holder read a resolution pursuant to House Bill 1248 passed at the regular 2012 session of the General Assembly of Georgia (the "Act"), the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia are required to hold an election to enable Garden City residents to approve or reject a homestead exemption from Garden City, Georgia, ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$40,000 of the assessed value of the homestead for residents of the City.

Deputy City Manager said we had an opportunity this year to introduce legislation through State Representative Bob Bryant to establish a homestead tax exemption if property taxes are implemented in the future. He said this will be in place in 2013 and for the future even though a motion was made not to adopt a millage rate for 2012.

Councilmember Kicklighter made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Shuman, to adopt the Homestead Tax Resolution. Councilmember Bethune, Councilmember Campbell, Councilmember Cody, Councilmember Kicklighter, Councilmember Shuman voted in favor with Councilmember Scott opposed.

Resolution, Flood Mitigation Plan: Mayor Holder read a resolution by the Mayor and Council of Garden City, Georgia to adopt and implement by the City the Flood Mitigation Plan for unincorporated Chatham County, Georgia for the purpose of protecting residents and property from potential flood damages while maintaining good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program.

PED Director said Chatham County is still in the process of revising their Flood Mitigation Plan and staff is recommending City Council table this item until we can review the revised plan.

Upon motion by Councilmember Shuman, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to table the adoption of the County's Flood Mitigation Plan until the revised plan could be reviewed and then brought back to City Council for consideration at a future meeting.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Councilmember Bethune, seconded by Councilmember Campbell, City Council voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:04 p.m.

Transcribed by Rhonda Ferrell-Bowles, Clerk of Council

Adopted by City Council: 8-6-12

